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simply this : Shall the world, which has thus far been growing better, be turned from this path and go downward? Mr. Pearson himself who, tells us in his introduction, that the most conspicuous examples of false prophecies are taken from those made by eminent statesmen. May we not hope that the forecasts of our poets who occupy, in our generation, the position held by the older race of prophets, are more nearly correct than is this despondent prediction of an eminent Australian statesman !

While our author has given us a work with whose conclusions there may be honest differences of opinion, there can be no doubt that he does call attention to forces in our civilization which are too often neglected. If Mr. Pearson succeeds in turning society from a glorification over its prosperity to an attempt to remedy its imperfections, we may well thank him for his efforts.

C. H. LINCOLN.

Philadelphia.

Eight Hours for Work. By JOHN RAE. Pp. 340. Price, \$1.25.
London and New York : Macmillan & Co., 1894.

The purpose of the book is well expressed in the following extract from the preface : "I was led to undertake the following inquiry, because I could find no solid bottom in any of the current prognostications, favorable or unfavorable, as to the probable consequences of a general adoption of an eight-hours working day. They were all alike built on a little stock of assumptions about the natural effects of shorter working hours, which nobody seemed to think it necessary to verify. . . . It seemed, therefore, that if we wanted to know what was to happen now, the best way to begin was to find out what had happened before." The author finds that "the available evidence is unexpectedly copious, and its teaching is unexpectedly plain and uniform." The book seems to fully justify these two statements. The number of experiments made with short hours is certainly surprising, and their result still more so.

The effect of short hours on production is first considered. Most writers, even the friends of the movement, have usually assumed, with Professor Marshall, that production would be lessened considerably, if not proportionally, by a change from nine or ten hours to eight, and further, that the loss would be greatest where most automatic machinery is used ; and finally, that if production were maintained at near the old rate during the trial period, it would decline after a few months when the workmen considered the case settled. Experiment in a great variety of industries seems to prove all these

fears groundless. Production has hardly decreased ; it has decreased as little with automatic machinery as without it ; and it has almost always been larger after a year or so than at first. The author concludes that the longer working day has been excessive ; that it has deteriorated the mind as well as the body to the detriment of quantity and quality of product, machine work suffering by interruption and mismanagement ; and finally, that a reduction of hours results in a slow but considerable improvement of the laborer's efficiency, with corresponding effect on the product. Many will view these results with incredulity, but it will certainly be difficult to discredit them, for the author has taken the precaution to consider all evidence on the question, no matter what its tendency.

Evidence is also collected as to the use which the working man makes of his leisure. The result is less conclusive, but, on the whole, encouraging. He not unfrequently makes a better use of the longer leisure because it is more usable. Mr. Rae believes that it has been regularly favorable to temperance, and finds that the liquor dealers have opposed the shorter day.

Perhaps the best thing of the book is the discussion of the favorite argument in favor of the eight-hour day, that it will furnish work for the unemployed. This the author declares to be a chimera. If the shorter hours do not seriously curtail production, they, of course, leave the unemployed where they were before. But even if it did, it would not help them. The favorite argument is, that to curtail production would leave demand as before, and more men would be called in to keep up the supply, and wages would rise because of scarcity and the absence of the competition of the unemployed. This sophistry is admirably exposed. To curtail supply may leave *want* unchanged, but not demand. Demand is an offer of goods for goods, and if there are less goods to bid for, there are just so many less goods to offer for them. Demand is not only proportional to supply ; demand *is* supply looked at from another side. If industry could absorb the unemployed under an eight-hour day, it could do so under a ten-hour day, since it is the product of labor that pays the wages of labor. This conclusion is confirmed by the fact that, when hours were greatly reduced by the English Factory Acts, the unemployed did not diminish. This fatuous belief, that to reduce production would raise wages and increase the employment for labor, the writer declares to be the greatest obstacle to the proposed reduction. A chapter on the significant experience of the colony of Victoria and one on industrial legislation complete the book. The writer favors a cautious use of legislation to accomplish the reform, the inertia of employers rendering it otherwise impossible.

The book is almost a model. It is conspicuous for candor and good judgment, and combines acute analysis with painstaking research.

H. H. POWERS.

The Life and Times of James the First, the Conqueror, King of Aragon, etc. By F. DARWIN SWIFT, B. A., formerly scholar of Queens College, Oxford. Pp. xx, 311. Price, \$3.25. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

This is an historical monograph of a kind which, unfortunately, is much less common in English than it ought to be. Mr. Swift has divided his work into two parts, Political History and Social History, an arrangement which necessarily involves some repetition yet which is justified in this instance. Owing to the uncritical character of previous accounts in English of this period of Spanish history, the author's first task was to discover and present in succinct form what actually happened during the life of James. This he has done in his first part. A more appropriate title for this division of the work would have been "The Annals of the Reign of James I." reserving for Part II the title Political and Social Institutions.

Part I, like all annals, is very dry reading, but the critical care that has been expended upon it, and the thorough study of the sources printed and unprinted upon which it is based, give it a permanent value as a work of reference.

The six chapters of Part II discuss the Administrative System and Legislation of James, Finance, Commerce, the Church, the Jews and Saracens, Literature, Science and Art. There are also several appendices, a small collection of documents, a good index and a very serviceable Bibliography. In the latter, however, one is surprised to find Condé's utterly untrustworthy *Histoire de la Domination des Arabes et des Maures en Espagne* and to miss Dozy's *Recherches* and Mueller's *Der Islam im Morgen- und Abendland*. The student of economic history will turn first to the chapter on "Revenues and Commerce." It is the best collection of facts accessible in English on the trade and industry of the Eastern Mediterranean peoples in this period, yet it is not so complete as it might be. In the literature of the subject Mr. Swift has overlooked Heyd's *Geschichte des Levant-handels* and Ebert's *Quellenforschungen aus der Geschichte Spaniens* of which the chapter: *Zur Verfassungsgeschichte der Stadt Barcelona im Mittelalter* is important for his purpose. James' Navigation Law of 1227 is described as restricting the traffic with Egypt to "ships of Barcelona alone to the special exclusion of foreign vessels," but reference to the proclamation as given in Capmany II, p. 11 (the